

March 8, 1983

to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Senator Marsh and her husband Frank and they are their international adopted daughter Efi Sumarlin of Indonesia and her friend, Yasmine Al-Mutawa from Kuwait. Welcome to the Legislature. Agenda #5, motions. Introduction of new bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to suspend Rule 5, Section 4(c) so as to permit the introduction of a new bill, req. 984.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the request is to suspend the rules to allow the introduction of Requisition 984. What we are trying to do with this bill, and I ask for your indulgence in making this exception, is to deal with a problem that particularly has come to light in recent days regarding asbestos in our schools. I have been involved in the asbestos issue in this state since 1979 and have tried as best I can to deal with the issue through the Legislature but it has only been in recent months that the schools throughout the state have initiated an identification program to identify just how serious the problem is in our schools. This is required by the federal government in a bill passed last year. Each and every school in our state has to go through a process of identification by the end of this fiscal year, that is the end of June, and identify whether or not they have an asbestos problem. What we have already found in the state is about three million square feet of asbestos and the Lincoln Schools just found a half a million feet alone and these are in schools across the State of Nebraska including Lincoln, Hastings, Columbus, South Sioux City and elsewhere and many of the schools have yet to complete their identification program. So we have a problem that is very serious and a problem that is across the state and the schools need help. What this bill would allow them to do is to have special authority to provide for an assessment to raise the funds they need to deal with the asbestos problem in their particular school district. We are asking for the bill to be introduced today. I have already talked to Senator Vickers and Senator Johnson and hopefully they will be able to reference the bill to the Education Committee today. The Education Committee is already set to go with the hearing a week from today on the bill so we could move rapidly with the problem. The bill basically allows for local control, local option in dealing with the problem which they do not now have and they desperately need this assistance. I would ask for your support for this special request.